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**Location:**

Mt. Scott-Arleta, Portland

**Submitted written testimony to the Joint Committee on Transportation for the 6/4 Roadshow Hearing:**

Next session's transportation package is both a major necessity and a prime opportunity to invest in a better future. Fittingly, the future of our transportation is at a crossroads. We can either continue to barrel down the highway of yesterday's short-sighted decisions, or we can choose a new track of safe, people-first, multi-modal infrastructure that can be more inclusive of Oregonians of all walks of life.

I recently became a homeowner in SE Portland. I love the neighborhood and the community, but am frustrated by the limited options for safe transportation. My preference is to bike, but challenging conditions such as crossing busy roads with poor visibility, dodging inattentive drivers, and avoiding potholes and gravel roads make me more reliant on a car than I'd like. I would love to take more transit, but options within a reasonable distance are limited. I fear becoming yet another bike or pedestrian fatality or injury statistic.

As a child, I spent some summers in Japan, and I saw how empowering reliable transit and accessible biking was for people of varying ages, genders, and abilities. I know a better future is possible for Oregonians. Continuing to empty already bare coffers on large projects to benefit exclusively vehicles not only robs us of that brighter future, but also locks in carbon emissions and our current inadequate system for potentially generations to come.

Please support policies and priorities in this transportation package that promote human safety and empowerment, reduce future reliance on carbon-intensive modes of transportation, and a resilient, multi-modal transportation landscape for us and future Oregonians.

Thank you.